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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
ANA L. ROJAS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiff,

**COLLECTIVE ACTION  
COMPLAINT**

-against-

L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, CHRISTOPHER  
CHESNUTT and EWA OLSEN, as individuals,

JURY TRIAL  
DEMANDED

Defendants.

-----X

1. Plaintiff, **ANA L. ROJAS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by her attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., alleges, upon personal knowledge as to herself and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

2. Plaintiff, **ANA L. ROJAS, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against **L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT and EWA OLSEN, as individuals**, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiff's employment at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, located at 64 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10011.
3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount

exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
6. Venue is proper in the SOUTHERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

#### **THE PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff, ANA L. ROJAS, residing at 37-27 111<sup>th</sup> Street, Corona, New York 11368, was employed by Defendants at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT from in or around January 2019 until in or around August 2019.
9. Upon information and belief, Defendant, L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 64 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10011.
10. Upon information and belief, Defendant, L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
11. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, owns and/or operates L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
12. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, is the Chairman of the Board of L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
13. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, is an agent of L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, has power over personnel decisions at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.

15. Upon information and belief, Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, has power over payroll decisions at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
16. Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, has the power to hire and fire employees at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintain their employment records.
17. During all relevant times herein, Defendant, CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT, was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
18. Upon information and belief, Defendant, EWA OLSEN, owns and/or operates L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
19. Upon information and belief, Defendant, EWA OLSEN, is an agent of L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
20. Upon information and belief, Defendant, EWA OLSEN, has power over personnel decisions at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
21. Upon information and belief, Defendant, EWA OLSEN, has power over payroll decisions at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT.
22. Defendant, EWA OLSEN, has the power to hire and fire employees at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintain their employment records.
23. During all relevant times herein, Defendant, EWA OLSEN, was Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
24. Upon information and belief, L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person; and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

25. Plaintiff, ANA L. ROJAS, was employed by Defendants at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT from in or around January 2019 until in or around August 2019.

26. During Plaintiff, ANA L. ROJAS'S employment by Defendants at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT, Plaintiff's primary duties were as a cook and kitchen worker, and performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around January 2019 until in or around August 2019.
27. Plaintiff, ANA L. ROJAS, was paid by Defendants approximately \$13.00 per hour from in or around January 2019 until in or around August 2019.
28. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff ANA L. ROJAS the legally prescribed minimum wage for her hours worked from in or around January 2019 until in or around August 2019, a blatant violation of the minimum wage provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
29. Plaintiff, ANA L. ROJAS, worked approximately fifty-four (54) or more hours per week at L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT from in or around January 2019 until in or around August 2019.
30. Although Plaintiff, ANA L. ROJAS, worked approximately fifty-four (54) or more hours per week during his employment by Defendants, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
31. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
32. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep accurate payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
33. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

#### **COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

34. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of herself and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.

35. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as cooks and kitchen workers, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required overtime wage compensation.
36. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed approximately 25 to 35 employees within the relevant time period who were subjected to similar payment structures.
37. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
38. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
39. Upon information and belief, Defendants had knowledge that Plaintiff and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.
40. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
41. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
42. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
43. The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the putative class.
44. Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.

45. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act**

46. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

47. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

48. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).

49. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).

50. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage, to which Plaintiff was entitled under 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).

51. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiff.

52. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, her unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law**

53. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

54. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
55. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiff was entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
56. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, her unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to her unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Minimum Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act**

1. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
2. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
3. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of services and goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
4. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
5. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff a minimum wage in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §§201, 202 and 203.
6. Defendants' violations of the FLSA, as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional.
7. Defendants have not made a good faith effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the Plaintiffs' compensation.



8. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid minimum wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **Minimum Wages Under New York Labor Law**

9. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
10. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of NYLL §§2 and 651.
11. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers within the meaning of NYLL.
12. Defendants failed to record, credit or compensate Plaintiff the applicable minimum hourly wage, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act, specifically NYLL §652.
13. Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff the required minimum wage, which Plaintiff were entitled under NYLL §652, in violation of 12 N. Y. C. R. R. 137-1.3.
14. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid minimum wages and an amount equal to their unpaid minimum wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NYLL §198 (1-a).

#### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law**

15. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
16. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff's primary language), of her rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).



17. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

### **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law**

18. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

19. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)

20. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00 each, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

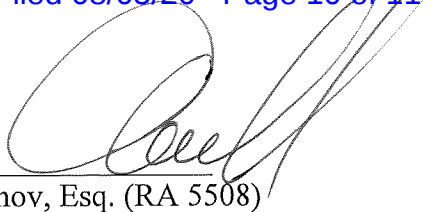

**Wherefore**, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be granted:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiff's rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid minimum wages;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- e. Awarding Plaintiff prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- f. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- g. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

### **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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SUMMONS & COMPLAINT

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**TO:**  
**L-RAY, LLC d/b/a ALTA RESTAURANT**  
**64 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011**

**CHRISTOPHER CHESNUTT**  
**64 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011**

**EWA OLSEN**  
**64 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011**